

Bus Safety Amendment Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7646. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-434, "Closing of Public Streets and Alleys in Squares 5318, 5319, and 5320 S.O. 04-14199, Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7647. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-435, "Drug Offense Driving Privileges Revocation and Disqualification Amendment Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7648. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-436, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 2910, S.O. 05-0587, Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7649. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-437, "People First Respectful Language Conforming Amendment Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7650. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-438, "People First Respectful Language Modernization Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7651. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-439, "Closing of Public Alleys in Square 749, S.O. 00-83, Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7652. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-440, "Official Fruit of the District of Columbia Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7653. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-441, "Washington Stage Guild Tax Exemption Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7654. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-442, "Solid Waste Disposal Fee Temporary Amendment Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7655. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-444, "Fringe Lot Real Property Exclusive Rights Agreement Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2006" received on July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7656. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commission Guidance Regarding Client Commission Practices Under Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" (S7-13-06) received on

July 21, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 5631. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-292).

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3508. A bill to authorize improvements in the operation of the government of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. *Stephen S. McMillin, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 3720. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the protection of farm and ranch land; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3721. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the United States Emergency Management Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3722. A bill to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3723. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3724. A bill to enhance scientific research and competitiveness through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3725. A bill to reduce the disparity in punishment between crack and powder cocaine offenses, to more broadly focus the punishment for drug offenders on the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 3726. A bill to amend the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for continued payment of railroad retirement annuities by the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 3727. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an adjustment to the reduction of Medicare resident positions based on settled cost reports; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. DOLE):

S. 3728. A bill to promote nuclear non-proliferation in North Korea; considered and passed.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 3729. A bill to provide for the establishment of emergency wildland fire suppression funds; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 3730. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the use of recovery audit contractors under the Medicare Integrity Program with respect to Medicare Secondary Payer claims and activities; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 666

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 713

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 713, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on

behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1276

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1276, a bill to amend section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding challenging academic content standards for physical education.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 2284

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 2459

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to improve cargo security, and for other purposes.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2460, a bill to permit access to certain information in the Firearms Trace System database.

S. 2465

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2465, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2491, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

S. 2590

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2590, a bill to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds.

S. 2616

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2616, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and the Mineral Leasing Act to improve surface mining control and reclamation, and for other purposes.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt qualified public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan.

S. 2787

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2787, a bill to permit United States persons to participate in the exploration for and the extraction of hydrocarbon resources from any portion of a foreign maritime exclusive economic zone that is contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3128

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3128, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

S. 3519

At the request of Mr. BURNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3519, a bill to reform the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3613

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3613, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2951 New York Highway 43 in Averill Park, New York, as the "Major George Quamo Post Office Building".

S. 3652

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3652, a bill to amend the definition of a law enforcement officer under subchapter III of chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, respectively, to ensure the inclusion of certain positions.

S. 3653

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3653, a bill to amend the Law Enforcement Pay Equity Act of 2000 to permit certain annuitants of the retirement programs of the United States Park Police and United States Secret Service Uniformed Division to receive the adjustments in pension benefits to which such annuitants would otherwise be entitled as a result of the conversion of members of the United States Park Police and United States Secret Service Uniformed Division to a new salary schedule under the amendments made by such Act.

S. 3696

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3696, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments.

S. 3716

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3716, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building".

S. RES. 312

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 312, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to address global climate change through the negotiation of fair and effective international commitments.

S. RES. 407

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 407, a resolution recognizing the African American Spiritual as a national treasure.

S. RES. 510

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 510, a resolution designating the period beginning on June 28, 2006, and ending on July 5, 2006, as "National Clean Beaches Week", supporting the goals and ideals of that week, and recognizing the considerable value and role of beaches in the culture of the United States.

S. RES. 531

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were

added as cosponsors of S. Res. 531, a resolution to urge the President to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan.

S. RES. 535

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 535, a resolution commending the Patriot Guard Riders for shielding mourning military families from protesters and preserving the memory of fallen service members at funerals.

AMENDMENT NO. 4689

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4689 proposed to S. 403, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

AMENDMENT NO. 4690

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4690 intended to be proposed to S. 3711, a bill to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3721. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the United States Emergency Management Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce S. 3721, the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. It contains a vital set of reforms and innovations for our emergency-management systems that are designed to save lives and ease suffering when disaster strikes. The crafting of this bill has benefited from the insights of my principal cosponsor, Senator LIEBERMAN, and from the support of our other cosponsor, Senator SALAZAR.

The Senate has already acted on one critical measure to apply the bitter lessons of Hurricane Katrina. The 87 to 11 vote on July 11, adding creation of the U.S. Emergency Management Authority to the Homeland Security appropriations bill, adopted a major element of today's bill. That was a great step forward.

The Senate Homeland Security Committee conducted an 8-month investigation with 23 hearings, more than 325 formal interviews, and a review of

more than 838,000 pages of documents to ascertain why the response to Hurricane Katrina was so inadequate at all levels of government. The investigation revealed serious failures of leadership. It also revealed an urgent need for broad reforms ranging from communication-technology standards to the structure and missions of entire Federal agencies.

Some of the 88 recommendations that flowed from our investigation can be adopted by administrative action. The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act comprises important steps that only Congress can take. I will outline the five key components of our bill.

First, we strengthen FEMA and rename it as the United State Emergency Management Authority, or US-EMA, to signify a fresh start. We elevate US-EMA within DHS, restore its preparedness authority, and protect it from departmental reorganizations that could erode its budget and assets. These measures give the agency mission and asset protections like those of its DHS siblings, the Coast Guard and the Secret Service.

These statutory protections are important. Securing the integrity of FEMA preserves the cooperative benefits of its operating within easy reach of other DHS agencies. It also avoids the duplication, cost, and confusion for State and local officials that would come from carving FEMA out as a weak, stand-alone agency for natural disasters. Keeping FEMA where it was placed by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 avoids the need for DHS to recreate a similar terror-response capability.

Improving contact and coordination among Federal, State, and local agencies is essential. For that reason, our bill provides for regionally based, multi-agency Federal strike teams that will be ready to act and deploy in a region they will already know and understand before a disaster occurs.

The bill also provides continued funding for the interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact that proved so valuable in marshaling aid for the gulf coast last year. It commits the US-EMA to work with States and localities to develop a standardized credentialing system that will help responders and selected private-sector personnel move quickly into disaster areas anywhere in the country, and it requires the US-EMA to offer technical assistance to State and local governments.

To help remedy the communications gaps revealed by Hurricane Katrina, we also improve the agency's organizational and technical communications systems. Our bill designates the Administrator of the US-EMA as the principal advisor to the President on emergency-management issues. Meanwhile, national and regional advisory councils will ensure that the US-EMA has open channels of communication with State and local officials, emer-

gency responders, key private-sector and nongovernmental entities, and with representatives of people with disabilities.

On the equally important technical side, our bill consolidates several communications programs within a new Office of Emergency Communications within US-EMA. This office will devise a national emergency-communications strategy, administer grants for inter-operable communications, and regularly assess the operability and inter-operability of the communication systems that are essential for disaster response and that failed so widely during the Katrina catastrophe.

This US-EMA portion of the bill has received a great deal of attention. But it is only one part of this package of essential reforms.

The second part of our bill permits an enhanced Federal role in emergency management when major disasters require it. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, better known as the Stafford Act, authorizes a variety of Federal assistance measures to State and local governments when the President has declared a disaster.

Congress has amended the Stafford Act over time to make it more effective. Our bill continues that process of improvement by applying lessons learned from Katrina.

At the highest level, it directs the Federal Government to develop and maintain a national disaster-recovery strategy in coordination with the State and local governments which will lead each recovery. This fills a remarkable planning void in our current system, which focuses on response. When disaster overwhelms state and local governments and devastates large areas, recovery can be a long process requiring extended Federal assistance.

We increase the potential for more effective Federal aid in several ways. For example, the legislation enhances Federal agencies' ability to respond when the President uses his authority to direct their assistance in major-disaster response and recovery.

The bill requires a national-disaster housing strategy and authorizes making semipermanent housing units a part of Stafford Act assistance. In many cases, the modular "Katrina cottages," for example, would be less costly, safer, more livable, more easily sited, and more durable than the notorious trailers FEMA purchased.

A new title VII for the Stafford Act gives the President discretion to offer increased Federal assistance when disaster overwhelms state and local governments. This discretionary—but limited—authority for catastrophes includes raising the cap on individual assistance, assisting victims with rent or mortgage costs, extending disaster-unemployment benefits, increasing community loans, and raising the reimbursement to communities for the cost of food, clothes, and other essential goods they distribute to victims.